

I rise in strong opposition to the resolution before us today. The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFazio) often speaks of the flat-Earth society that emerges here on the floor of the House from time to time. I fear that we have some Members here today bringing that philosophy forward who feel that we could either force our will unilaterally on other Nations around the world or that we can just go our separate way in the matter of international trade or commerce or that somehow we are in danger of being taken over by a faceless team of sinister international bureaucrats. All of that is pure and simple hogwash.

We are in a very powerful position today. As has been documented time and time again on the floor of this House already, we are in the catbird seat. We win the preponderance of the cases that are brought before the WTO. We do not have to go along with something that strikes us on its face as being unfair and unequitable against the environment.

In the final analysis, this Congress retains the power, the sovereign power, to, on the floor, turn anything that we think is wrong. But in the meantime, we have a strong interest in making sure that we have an international system.

The United States was the institution that prompted the evolution of the WTO. We benefit the most because we are the largest exporting Nation in this world. I agree it is true the WTO is an imperfect organization, like the United Nations, like God forbid this Congress that continues to treat the citizens of the District of Columbia like members of a colony.

Do not talk to me about somehow the WTO is imperfect. We are holding up that same mirror to us. We can talk about lack of transparency in this Congress, lack of responsiveness to the will of the people of the United States. But we are all here slugging it out trying to do our best to move it forward. That is what we should be doing here with the WTO.

Withdrawing from the League of Nations did not make Europe safer prior to World War II. Staying in the WTO, exercising our leadership is going to hasten the day when it provides the type of transparency that we want, the type of leadership. But for heaven's sakes reject this resolution.